

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05
OES-07 OMB-01 AGRE-00 /064 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:MLCHESSES:AG
APPROVED BY S/NM:MFALCO
NEA/RA:SHOLLY (DRAFT)
NEA/ARN:WHOWELL (DRAFT)
-----040807Z 122242 /15

R 040214Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:SNAR, LE, TU

SUBJECT:OPIUM PRODUCTION IN BEKAA VALLEY

REFERENCE: DAMASCUS 2715

1. DR. CHARLES SIMKINS, WHO UNTIL LAST YEAR RAN THE
UNFDAC CROP SUBSTITUTION PROJECT IN THE BEKAA VALLEY,
PROVIDED THE DEPARTMENT THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
ON OPIUM GROWING IN THE VALLEY. INITIALLY FIVE OR
SIX FARMERS, USING TURKISH LABORERS, ENGAGED IN POPPY
GROWING. THIS PAST DECEMBER HE WAS INFORMED THAT YIELDS
AND PRICES WERE GOOD (PRICES RECEIVED WERE HIGHER THAN
THAT RECEIVED BY PAKISTANI FARMERS) AND THEREFORE HE
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ASSUMES PRODUCTION WILL EXPAND. GROWING WAS CENTERED NEAR
THE TOWN OF SHMISTAR (APPROXIMATE COORDINATES 34 DEGREES
LATITUDE BY 36 DEGREES LONGITUDE). THERE ARE A FEW
FAMILIES IN BAALABAAK WHICH PROCESS OPIUM INTO HEROIN.

2. SIMKINS ALSO REPORTS THAT SYRIAN SOLDIERS WERE INVOLVED
IN HASHISH TRAFFIC AND MIGHT ALSO BE MOVING OPIUM.

3. ONE OF SIMKINS' FORMER COLLEAGUES, ABULI YASBEK SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION. YASBEK LIVES IN THE AREA AT HOUCHRAFKA AND IS CONNECTED WITH THE "GREEN PLAN." YASBEK TRAVELS FREQUENTLY TO DAMASCUS AND CAN BE CONTACTED THROUGH A MR. SOGAYA, THE AGRICULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE AT THE UNDP RESREPS OFFICE.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPIUM, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, DRUG CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770594/aaaaddks.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5f4d8c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SNM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: 77 DAMASCUS 2715
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
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SAS ID: 2642014
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPIUM PRODUCTION IN BEKAA VALLEY
TAGS: SNAR, LE, TU, (SIMKINS, CHARLES)
To: ANKARA DAMASCUS MULTIPLE
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